

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage process for the treatment of organic
2 waste comprising:

3 ~~One)~~ **(a)** Drying said waste to reduce ~~the~~ water content to below 15%;

4 ~~Two)~~ **(b)** Subjecting said dried waste to a thermochemical liquefaction
5 process in the presence of a recirculating solvent medium at a temperature of about 275°C to
6 375°C and a pressure of up to 10 atmospheres, thereby obtaining gaseous, liquid and solid
7 products;

8 ~~Three)~~ **(c)** Separating ~~the a~~ formed slurry product from condensable gas,
9 water and other liquid fractions boiling out at up to 250°C;

10 ~~Four)~~ **(d)** Transferring said slurry product obtained from thermal extraction
11 from step c to a pyrolysis apparatus and treating the same at a temperature of about 350°C to
12 500°C to cause additional thermal destruction of unconvertible organic matter of feed material
13 and heavy liquid fractions obtained in step c and their evaporation and removal from pyrolysis
14 apparatus;

15 ~~Five)~~ **(e)** Separating vapor products from condensable oil products;

16 ~~Six)~~ **(f)** Vacuum distillation of oil products from step a for the removal of
17 fractions having a boiling temperature of between 250°C and 350°C; and

18 ~~Seven)~~ **(g)** Recirculating a fraction having a boiling temperature of above
19 300°C as the recirculating solvent medium for step b.

1 2. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said
2 recirculating solvent medium is in itself a liquid product with a boiling temperature of above
3 300°C.

1 3. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said
2 recirculating solvent medium serves as a hydrogen donor in step b.

1 4. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said
2 organic waste, is sewage sludge.

1 5. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein said waste
2 is dried to reduce the water content to below 12%.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein
2 the ~~ratio of solvent to sewage sludge feed is~~ **solvent and dried waste are present in a ratio of**
3 between 0.75:1 and 1.5:1.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein
2 the ~~ratio of solvent to sewage sludge feed is~~ **solvent and dried waste are present in a ratio of**
3 about 1:1.

1 8. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1. wherein step d is
2 carried out at a temperature of about 450°C.

1 9. (Original) A multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein step d is
2 carried out by recirculating a fraction having a boiling temperature of above 350°C as the
3 recirculating solvent medium for step b.